

Please don't further deregulate ownership of media sources in the United States. Here in Silver City, the owner of a local radio station (who doubles as DJ) uses the Dixie Chick's sudden drop from #1 to nowhere on the popular Top 40 as "proof" that most Americans disagreed with or are boycotting the Dixie Chicks because of Natalie Maines' recent comments about George W. Bush. The Chicks, during this whole ridiculous episode, have remained at #1 in album sales. This radio station owner knows full well that it is Clear Channel's unconsciounable use of its near-monopoly of radio stations to push its political views - and boycott of the Dixie Chicks - that is the real cause of the Chicks drop from the Top 40. However, since this radio station owner happens to be politically conservative and without integrity in presenting divergent views or political issues fairly, he is misrepresenting this and - I think - misleading a lot of young people who don't understand this issue. I'm sure there are many other radio station owners and DJs out there similarly exploiting this situation to further there political views. You may not agree with my political leanings, but - as a former newspaper editor and American who is proud of my freedom to think and speak for myself - I believe you have a responsibility to protect to your utmost ability the integrity of the media in the United States. Please don't use your powerful positions as opportunity to further your personal politics. Please protect Americans' right and need to have access to honest, diverse news and viewpoints. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.